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press release

FOR RELEASE A.M. MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

U.S. machine tool orders rose 23% in April, totalling $255,850,000. However, shipments, which are the industry's complete sales, declined 16% during the month, to $158,850,000, according to data released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. Compared to April 1983, orders were 116% higher but shipments have risen only 5%.

Association president James A. Gray warned that the continued shipment shortfall threatens to permanently damage the American industry.

"Even though orders are on the rise, they have only partially recovered from their lowest real levels in history," Gray said. "Because of the very long lead times required to make machine tools, many builders could be permanently crippled or put out of business before orders have risen to high enough levels for a long enough period to effect a substantial recovery in shipments.

"This recovery could be accelerated, and damage to the industry reduced, if the White House takes prompt and favorable action to reduce the level of imports that are threatening our

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defense-related industry," Gray stated.

Gray referred to the Association's 232 petition, which was filed with the Department of Commerce more than a year ago. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige made a recommendation for action, to the White House, on February 28th. To date, the President has not acted.

The petition, filed on the industry's behalf, demonstrates that current levels of imports threaten the nation's security and urges that President Reagan limit machine tool imports to 17.5% of domestic consumption for a period of five years. It has received broad bipartisan support from Congress -- much of it from Congressmen who normally oppose trade restrictions.

In April, orders for metal-cutting machine tools increased 25% to $182,550,000. Shipments in the category declined 17% to $101,600,000.

Metal-forming machine tool orders were up 18% in April, totalling $73,300,000. However, shipments were off 14% at $57,250,000.

Industry order backlog increased by $97 million in April to a total of $1.292 billion.

# # # #

COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

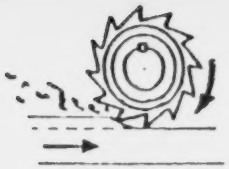
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1984	138,450	44,100	182,550	65,900	7,400	73,300	204,350	51,500	255,850
March 1984	131,900	14,600	146,500	56,750	5,200	61,950	188,650	19,800	208,450
% Change									
Apr.1984:Mar.1984	+5.0	+202.1	+24.6	+16.1	+42.3	+18.3	+8.3	+160.1	+22.7
April 1983	73,650	5,600	79,250	37,400	1,900	39,300	111,050	7,500	118,550
% Change									
Apr. 1984:Apr. 1983	+88.0	+687.5	+130.3	+76.2	+289.5	+86.5	+84.0	+586.7	+115.8
Year To Date 1984	514,550	80,750	595,300	241,700	19,300	261,000	756,250	100,050	856,300
Year To Date 1983	279,500	23,850	303,350	117,100	12,950	130,050	396,600	36,800	433,400
% Change									
1984 : 1983	+84.1	+238.6	+96.2	+106.4	+49.0	+100.7	+90.7	+171.9	+97.6

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

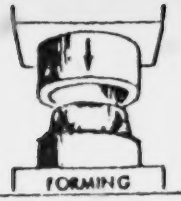
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1984	92,800	8,800	101,600	52,300	4,950	57,250	145,100	13,750	158,850
March 1984	112,350	10,150	122,500	60,000	6,750	66,750	172,350	16,900	189,250
% Change									
Apr.1984:Mar.1984	-17.4	-13.3	-17.1	-12.8	-26.7	-14.2	-15.8	-18.6	-16.1
April 1983	100,550	12,400	112,950	35,000	2,850	37,850	135,550	15,250	150,800
% Change									
Apr. 1984:Apr. 1983	-7.7	-29.0	-10.0	+49.4	+73.7	+51.3	+7.0	-9.8	+5.3
Year To Date 1984	365,800	33,900	399,700	188,250	20,400	208,650	554,050	54,300	608,350
Year To Date 1983	430,350	53,200	483,550	136,000	18,700	154,700	566,350	71,900	638,250
% Change									
1984 : 1983	-15.0	-36.3	-17.3	+38.4	+9.1	+34.9	-2.2	-24.5	-4.7

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

Form No. PRCC-2



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 175,550,000	$ 13,550,000	$ 189,100,000	1,120.85	$ 100,900,000	$ 12,050,000	$ 112,950,000
Feb.	$ 187,700,000	$ 15,200,000	$ 202,900,000	1,176.45	$ 135,700,000	$ 11,600,000	$ 147,300,000
Mar.	$ 188,650,000	$ 19,800,000	$ 208,450,000	1,195.65	$ 172,350,000	$ 16,900,000	$ 189,250,000
Apr. (p)	$ 204,350,000	$ 51,500,000	$ 255,850,000	1,292.65	$ 145,100,000	$ 13,750,000	$ 158,850,000
4 Mos.	$ 756,250,000	$ 100,050,000	$ 856,300,000		$ 554,050,000	$ 54,300,000	$ 608,350,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 183,900,000	$ 14,300,000	$ 198,200,000	$ 8,350,000	$ 750,000	$ 9,100,000
Feb.	$ 197,050,000	$ 16,900,000	$ 213,950,000	$ 9,350,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 11,050,000
Mar.	$ 196,700,000	$ 21,200,000	$ 217,900,000	$ 8,050,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 9,450,000
Apr. (p)	$ 212,550,000	$ 52,050,000	$ 264,600,000	$ 8,200,000	$ 550,000	$ 8,750,000
4 Mos.	$ 790,200,000	$ 104,450,000	$ 894,650,000	$ 33,950,000	$ 4,400,000	$ 38,350,000

P - Preliminary

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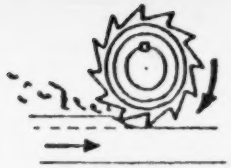
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 122,500,000	$ 10,700,000	$ 133,200,000	883.80	$ 65,350,000	$ 7,200,000	$ 72,550,000
Feb.	$ 121,700,000	$ 11,350,000	$ 133,050,000	913.80	$ 95,300,000	$ 7,750,000	$ 103,050,000
Mar.	$ 131,900,000	$ 14,600,000	$ 146,500,000	937.80	$ 112,350,000	$ 10,150,000	$ 122,500,000
Apr. (p)	$ 138,450,000	$ 44,100,000	$ 182,550,000	1,018.75	$ 92,800,000	$ 8,800,000	$ 101,600,000
4 Mos.	$ 514,550,000	$ 80,750,000	$ 595,300,000		$ 365,800,000	$ 33,900,000	$ 399,700,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 127,550,000	$ 10,750,000	$ 138,300,000	$ 5,050,000	$ 50,000	$ 5,100,000
Feb.	$ 130,600,000	$ 12,400,000	$ 143,000,000	$ 8,900,000	$ 1,050,000	$ 9,950,000
Mar.	$ 137,150,000	$ 15,950,000	$ 153,100,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 1,350,000	$ 6,600,000
Apr. (p)	$ 144,550,000	$ 44,200,000	$ 188,750,000	$ 6,100,000	$ 100,000	$ 6,200,000
4 Mos.	$ 539,850,000	$ 83,300,000	$ 623,150,000	$ 25,300,000	$ 2,550,000	$ 27,850,000

P - Preliminary

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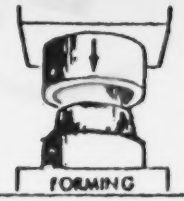

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 53,050,000	$ 2,850,000	$ 55,900,000	237.05	$ 35,550,000	$ 4,850,000	$ 40,400,000
Feb.	$ 66,000,000	$ 3,850,000	$ 69,850,000	262.65	$ 40,400,000	$ 3,850,000	$ 44,250,000
Mar.	$ 56,750,000	$ 5,200,000	$ 61,950,000	257.85	$ 60,000,000	$ 6,750,000	$ 66,750,000
Apr. (p)	$ 65,900,000	$ 7,400,000	$ 73,300,000	273.90	$ 52,300,000	$ 4,950,000	$ 57,250,000
4 Mos.	$ 241,700,000	$ 19,300,000	$ 261,000,000		$ 188,250,000	$ 20,400,000	$ 208,650,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 56,350,000	$ 3,550,000	$ 59,900,000	$ 3,300,000	$ 700,000	$ 4,000,000
Feb.	$ 66,450,000	$ 4,500,000	$ 70,950,000	$ 450,000	$ 650,000	$ 1,100,000
Mar.	$ 59,550,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 64,800,000	$ 2,800,000	$ 50,000	$ 2,850,000
Apr. (p)	$ 68,000,000	$ 7,850,000	$ 75,850,000	$ 2,100,000	$ 450,000	$ 2,550,000
4 Mos.	$ 250,350,000	$ 21,150,000	$ 271,500,000	$ 8,650,000	$ 1,850,000	$ 10,500,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1d

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